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But to criticise a single point is hardly just, unless the critic has much space at his command. Even readers who are well-informed on Venetian history, will find throughout Mr. Hodgson's book so careful an analysis of material that it will be worth their while to consult it. He has evidently studied the sources at first hand, and not merely the early chronicles, but also the philologists, Ducange and Diez, for the light they can throw on the early medieval customs and titles. He has studied carefully minute details of geography, on a knowledge of which the solution of many problems depends. He is least satisfactory in failing to give from time to time illuminating summaries of the course of events, and in missing legitimate opportunities for vivid description. The meeting of Pope Alexander III. and Frederick Barbarossa at Venice, for instance, was one of the transcendent episodes in medieval history ; to describe it in the colorless language which might suit the minutes of a missionary society meeting, betrays either unusual insensibility or timidity on the part of the historian. Probably Mr. Hodgson was afraid to let himself go, lest by being fervent he might be suspected of inaccuracy. But surely that is a false view of writing history which forbids one to treat great events greatly, and which hopes to attain to a specious veracity by using the same language and the same scale for great and small.

Mr. Hodgson's last chapter, in which he tells the story of the fourth Crusade, is the most interesting, perhaps because he wisely gains vividness by frequent reference to the delightful old Villehardouin. He also discusses fully the charge that the Venetians, in diverting the Crusade, acted in bad faith. He keeps his judgment clear amid the ethical tangle in which Innocent III. involved the crusaders. An appendix contains an excursus on the sources for the history of the fourth Crusade.

To sum up : Mr. Hodgson's success has been sufficient in this volume to warrant his going forward and completing the history. Painstaking and fairness are indispensable foundations to any historical work ; if to these he will add enthusiasm, a more effective style, and a full recognition that the men who made history were once really alive, his later volumes will be better than his first. He provides a good index, but his single page of *errata* does not give half of them. English scholars seem to be congenitally indifferent to the spelling of foreign words.

WILLIAM ROSCOE THAYER.

A Short History of Germany. By ERNEST F. HENDERSON. (New York : The Macmillan Company. 1902. Two vols., pp. x, 517; vii, 471.)

In the delightful *Letters* of the historian Green, there are repeated passages in which the author tries to distinguish between his own conceptions and methods and those of what he calls the pragmatic historians of the German school. The expression is a good one and can be applied in its full validity to the present work. Mr. Henderson has given us a pragmatic history. Indeed it would be curious if a man who bears the manifest hall-mark of the German seminar, who shows the widest

acquaintance with German historical resources and a profound sympathy with German ways of thought, who, in a word, has been admitted into the German house upon an intimate footing, it would be curious, I say, if the confirmed habits and established environment of such a man did not proclaim themselves in the lineaments of his work. But I hasten to add that the pragmatic method and the general German derivation of these volumes imply no surrender of his racial personality on the author's part. If the pragmatic note is largely the consequence of the too exclusive ideal of correctness, and if this ideal may, in summary terms, be declared to be the goal of German *Wissenschaft*, it must be granted on the other hand that Mr. Henderson has not forgotten that the literary or humanistic ideal, for which Green, for example, in his above-mentioned letters contends, has still a strong hold upon the cultured world, and in a book like this, intended not merely for university consumption, must imperatively be represented. The solid and scientific character of the book will be found to be preserved from anything like the heaviness, which is associated with so many otherwise excellent German works, by a certain mental vivacity, which never flags and which gives to each paragraph an inner sparkle and to the whole story something at least of its necessary epic movement.

It is not apparent why a work, embracing two very stout volumes, should be denominated a "Short History," except to convey the obvious information that there have been omissions, and to afford the author a shelter against criticisms on that score. It hardly seems necessary for Mr. Henderson to have adopted that device, but his having done so brings before us that he must have been considerably troubled about the question of what material he would introduce within his given frame, embarrassed as he was by a wilderness of riches. And this question, which is a question of proportions, is indeed in every general work an all-important one. The author solved it finally by conceiving of the history of Germany as a stream, which swells by constant and regular stages to a mighty river, and becomes important in measure as it approaches its mouth. In consequence, to the whole medieval period is devoted no more than about one half of the first volume, while the second volume is to all intents and purposes a history of Prussia in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Obviously this theory and its results are open to criticism, but it must be acknowledged that the author has kept his prime conception consistently before him and carried through its application with much skill. Still, whether owing to this preconceived plan or not, there are omissions which leave a keen regret, and with all due respect to the author's freedom to define his own task, cannot easily be justified. I do not of course speak of the hundreds of details about which every one has his own notions and preferences, and regards as petty or essential according to his philosophy and temperament; I refer to the very slight treatment which the author accords the matter of German civilization—*to Kulturgeschichte*, and to the oblivion or at least neglect, to which he condemns the constitutional history of the country. Thus though the

paragraphs on the periods of the Hohenstaufen and the Reformation may still pass muster as partial pictures of the life of these two great epochs, the total absence of the eighteenth century revival, by which were laid the foundations of the modern science, and as many think of the modern power of Germany, must be felt as a painful gap; and in the matter of the constitution of the Holy Roman Empire the great stages in its evolution can hardly be said to be discussed with the requisite incisiveness. The stem duchies are passed over; not a word will be found on the immensely important culmination of what German writers call the *Lehnstaat* under Frederick Barbarossa; and if the development of the Prussian administration and the reforms of Stein inspire the author to some of his most vigorous pages, this pleasant gift is offset by his refusal to give us anything like an adequate analysis of the present German constitution and of its fate since 1871. Perhaps it is correct to explain such omissions by the resolutely pragmatic character of the work. The author deals with events, that is, with the dynamic element of history, and has no time to interrupt the march of politics with legal, constitutional, or philosophical reflections. Even his many pen-portraits of great men exhibit this predilection. They never fail to contain weighty matter, being the product of a method which has gone straight to the sources, but though they are uniformly excellent readings of the subject's mind, they are deficient in color and play of light, qualities which come from looking at a subject in a variety of ways.

New and startling views are not characteristic of this work. With unflagging industry the author has assimilated a vast material, with ripe judgment he has weighed it. The result is a whole enveloped in an atmosphere of dignity and authority. One could differ as to numberless details. The author is very severe upon Philip of Hesse, Luther's landgrave; he ascribes the burning of Magdeburg without question to its inhabitants; his association of Frederick the Great's *Histoire de mon Temps* with Cæsar's literary work would indicate that he has only the schoolboy's irritated recollection of the Gallic War; he does the French Assembly scant justice in reviewing its motives for declaring the war of 1792. In every chapter the specialist of that field could find some phrase that might advantageously be altered, a judgment that has neglected some points of evidence; and from first to last a carping reviewer might object that the author is plainly prejudiced in favor of his subject. But in this connection Mr. Henderson, perhaps, remembered the wise word of Goethe, to the effect that only he who writes of a matter with favorable bias can hope to bring forth anything of profit.

In conclusion, to say that Mr. Henderson has given us the best history of Germany in the English language is no great praise. The open-minded reader will feel no desire to express his opinion so ambiguously. He will be constrained to acknowledge that this work need not fear the comparison with German works of similar scope, and that its erudition, liveliness, and sympathetic tone are calculated to insure its success with both the university and the general public.